

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 10-14, 16-25, 27-32, 34-36, 38-43 and 45-50 are pending in the above-identified application. Of these, claims 12-14, 16-25, 27-32, 34-36, 38-43 and 45-50 are canceled; claims 1-3, 8, and 10 rejected; and claims 4-7 and 11 objected to. Applicants, having amended the claims, respectfully request reconsideration.

Allowable Claims

The examiner objected to claims 4-7 and 11 "as being dependent upon a rejected base claim," but noted that they "would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims" (Office Action, page 7). Applicants have amended the claims per the examiner's suggestions.

Rejections Under 35 USC §102

Claims 1, 3, 8, and 10 stand rejected as anticipated by Gitlin et al. (5,191,462). Claim 1 now includes the subject matter of allowable claim 4, however, and so is allowable. Claims 3, 8, and 10 depend from claim 1, and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons claim 1 is allowable. The rejections of claims 1, 3, 8, and 10 should therefore be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 USC §103

Claims 2 stands rejected as unpatentable over Gitlin et al. in view of Best et al. (2002/0196883). Claim 2 depends upon allowable claim 1, however, and so is allowable for at least the same reasons claim 1 is allowable. The rejection of claim 2 should therefore be withdrawn.

New Claims

New claims 51-54 depend from claim 1, and consequently distinguish the cited art for at least the same reasons claim 1 distinguishes. New claims 55 and 56 depend from claim 6, and are allowable for at least the reasons presented above for claim 6.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe the claims to be in condition for allowance, and consequently request the examiner issue a notice of allowance. If the examiner's next action is other than the

allowance of the pending claims, the examiner is requested to call applicants' representative at (925) 621-2113.

Respectfully submitted,

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